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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/671,659	09/29/2003	Chun Te Yu	EL-CFP00414	8271
25864	7590	04/02/2008		
CHARLES C.H. WU 98 DISCOVERY IRVINE, CA 92618-3105			EXAMINER GALL, LLOYD A	
			ART UNIT 3673	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 04/02/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/671,659	Applicant(s) YU ET AL.	
	Examiner Lloyd A. Gall	Art Unit 3673	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 March 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 13 and 31-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 31 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13 and 32-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 December 2006 and 02 July 2007 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 13 and 32-35 are objected to because of the following informalities: In claim 13, line 10, it is not clear what is meant by "disposed corresponding to axis of". In claim 13, line 21, it is not clear in what sense the combination locking means is disposed at a corner of the body. All parts of the combination lock are located along the side edge of the body, or within the body, spaced from a corner. See the last line of claim 35 also. In claim 33, line 7, there is no antecedent basis for "said second compartment". In claim 35, line 5, it is not clear what is meant by "disposed corresponding to". Appropriate correction is required.

In view of the above claim objections, the claims are rejected as best understood, on prior art, as follows.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claim 35 as best understood is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Taylor et al (256).

Taylor teaches a lock body 12, a key locking means 26 or a combination locking means 16 having parts located near a corner of the lock body, and a block 96 located at another corner of the lock body to receive the shorter arm of the shackle 14.

Claim 35 as best understood is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Loughlin et al (324).

As seen in fig. 5b, Loughlin teaches a lock body 12 having a part of a combination lock near a corner of the lock body, diagonally opposite from a block 32 located near a corner of the lock body. Fig. 6B also teaches a block 40 located at a corner of the lock body, cooperable with the combination lock 14 near an opposite corner.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 13 and 32 as best understood are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loughlin (324) in view of Lai (672).

Loughlin (324) teaches, and in relying upon its provisional application 60/470,999, as seen in figs. 5a and 5b, a padlock with a combination lock 14 controlling movement of the longer shackle leg in its channel, and a second channel receiving the block 32 having a receptacle 34 to control unlocking movement of the shorter leg of the shackle, the block having an engaging portion which includes the receptacle 34 and its laterally extending gap, and a mounting portion (not shown) under the engaging portion which is coupled to the key lock, wherein as disclosed in paragraph 0137 on page 11, the block

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may be key actuated from the bottom of the padlock body, and includes a connection between the block 32 and the first locking means key plug. The gap of the engaging portion has a width larger than a diameter of the shorter arm of the shackle. The longer arm of the shackle is controlled by a second combination locking means 14. The block 32 and the lower part of the combination lock are located adjacent corners of the lock body. Loughlin also teaches in fig. 2b and in paragraph [0086], in particular the last line of paragraph [0086] with respect to all embodiments including fig. 5a and 5b, the longer shackle arm 18 cooperating with the numeral wheels to allow or prevent vertical unlocking motion of the shackle. Lai teaches a shackle 22 including a stem 34 cooperating with the numeral wheels of the lock and wherein the stem is connected to the long arm 33 of the shackle. It would have been obvious to modify the figs. 5a and 5b embodiment of Loughlin such that the long shackle arm 18 is allowed upward unlocking movement when the combination wheels are unlocked, in view of the fig. 2b embodiment of Loughlin et al, the motivation being to optimize the security of the padlock by requiring the proper unlocking combination to be known and used. It would have been obvious to modify the long shackle arm 18 of Loughlin such that it is connected to a stem which extends through the numeral wheels and is controlled by the numeral wheels for unlocking upward movement, in view of the teaching of Lai, the motivation being to optimize the security of the padlock by requiring the proper unlocking combination to be known and used.

Claims 33 and 34 as best understood are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loughlin et al (324) in view of Lai as applied to claim 13 above, and further in view of Fleming et al (866).

As seen in figs. 14-18, Fleming et al teaches a well known key lock 95 to block 88 connection, including a body 95 in fig. 18 having a rotor therein with a keyhole at a bottom end thereof for being engaged with a key, and a driving rod 87 extending from the second end of the rotor to be engaged with a mounting portion slot of the block 88. The key lock of Fleming is rotatable only by the key. It would have been obvious to modify the key lock to block 32 connection of Loughlin to include a rotor having a keyhole at its bottom end to receive a key and be rotatable only by the key, and a driving rod extending from the second end of the rotor to be engaged with a mounting portion of the block 32, in view of the teaching of Fleming et al, the motivation being to ensure simultaneous rotation of the block 32 of Loughlin with rotation of its key lock.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 13 and 32-35 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lloyd A. Gall whose telephone number is 571-272-7056. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patricia Engle can be reached on 571-272-6660. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Lloyd A. Gall/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3673

/L. A. G./
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3673
March 26, 2008